

THE North-China Herald.

VOL. IV., No. 184.

SHANGHAI, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1854.

PRICE, \$^d. 15 [¢] ANNUM.

NOTICES OF FIRMS.

NOTICE.

THE interest and responsibility of Mr. J. MACKILL SMITH, in our Firm ceased on the 31st ultimo.

SMITH, KING & Co.
Shanghai, January 4th, 1854.

NOTICE.

THE interest and responsibility of Mr. JOHN PATON WATSON in our Firm, ceased on the 31st December last.

WATSON & Co.
Shanghai, 2nd January, 1854.

NOTICE.

MR. GEO. GRISWOLD GRAY, is authorized to sign our Name by Procuration.

RUSSELL & Co.
Shanghai, January 1st, 1854.

NOTICE.

A BRANCH OF THE COMMERCIAL BANK OF INDIA, is established here from this date.

NUN CHANDLER, Agent.
Shanghai, 2nd January, 1854.

NOTICE.

MR. A. BIDEET is authorized to sign for me by Procuration.

D. REMI.
Shanghai, 1st January, 1854.

NOTICE.

IS hereby given that the partnership between ADAM SYKES, GUSTAV CHRISTIAN SCHWABE, HENRIK BUTLER and GEORGE STORMONT SPECKLEY, trading at Shanghai under the firm of SYKES, SCHWABE & Co., is this day dissolved by lapse of time.

SYKES, SCHWABE & Co.
Shanghai, 31st December, 1853.

NOTICE.

IS hereby given that the business heretofore carried on at Shanghai by SYKES, SCHWABE & Co., will be continued by GUSTAV CHRISTIAN SCHWABE, JOHANN FRIEDRICH HENRIK TRAUTMANN and JAMES CROSSLEY under the firm of

G. C. SCHWABE & Co.
Shanghai, 2nd January, 1854.

NOTICE.

THE interest and responsibility of Mr. OLIVER EVERETT ROBERTS, in our Firm at Canton and Shanghai, ceased on the 30th of June last.

WETHORE & Co.
Shanghai, 31st December, 1853.

NOTICE.

THE business conducted by the undersigned will in future be carried on under the style of JAS. BOWMAN & Co.

JAS. BOWMAN.
Shanghai, 1st July, 1853.

NOTICE.

THE interest and responsibility of the late Mr. WILLIAM HENRY WARDLEY in our Firm, terminated on the 29th of September last.

W. H. WARDLEY & Co.
Canton, 12th November, 1853.

WITH reference to the above Advertisement, the business of the House will be conducted as before by Mr. D. JOHNSON under the same Name, which Mr. F. D. JOHNSON is authorized to sign.

Mr. JAMES BOWMAN will sign for us in Shanghai by Procuration.

W. H. WARDLEY & Co.
Canton, 12th November, 1853.

NOTICE.

IS hereby given, that the Partnership heretofore subsisting between YORICK JONES MURROW and JAMES STEPHENSON under the style of FIRM OF MURROW, STEPHENSON & Co., has been this day dissolved. The undersigned, assuming the responsibility of the said Firm, will in future conduct the business on his own account and in his own name.

Y. J. MURROW.
Hongkong, 2d January, 1854.

INSURANCES.

SUN FIRE OFFICE, LONDON.

ESTABLISHED 1710.

Managers,

WILLIAM R. HAMILTON, Esq., Chairman

and Treasurer.

CHARLES B. FORD, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

THE HON. P. FLEWDELL BOUVERIE.

HARRY CHESTER, Esq.

PAUL PERRY, Esq.

RAIKES CURRIE, Esq., M.P.

JOHN DRUMMOND, Esq.

RUSSELL ELLICE, Esq.

WILLIAM FLANK, Esq.

Captain HENRY G. HAMILTON, R.N.

JOSEPH HOARE, Esq.

FELIX LADROCK, Esq.

H. F. SHAW LEVEY, Esq.

JOHN LITTLEDALE, Esq.

GEORGE WARDE NORMAN, Esq.

BRUCE PEARSE, Esq.

CHARLES RICHARD POLE, Esq.

LAMBERT POLE, Esq.

CHARLES RANKEN, Esq.

HENRY RICH, Esq., M.P.

JOHN SHEPHERD, Esq., M.P.

HENRY STUART, Esq., M.P.

C. GEORGE THORNTON, Esq.

THE MANAGERS OF THE SUN FIRE OFFICE, LONDON, beg to inform the Foreign Residents at Hongkong, Canton, and Shanghai, that they have constituted and appointed the undersigned as their Attorneys to issue POLICIES OF INSURANCE against FIRE on BUILDINGS, GOODS, MERCHANDISE, and other PROPERTY at those places.

Full particulars of Rates, &c., may be obtained on application to

LINDSAY & Co.,
Agents in China.
China, August 1852.

INSURANCES.

HONGKONG MARINE INSURANCE COMPANY.

THE undersigned are prepared to grant Policies on behalf of the HONGKONG INSURANCE COMPANY, payable in Hongkong, Hongkong, Canton, Singapore, Calcutta, Madras, Bombay and London.

LINDSAY & Co.
Shanghai, 1852.

NOTICE.

THE undersigned have been appointed AGENTS at Shanghai for the NEW YORK MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY and are now prepared to accept MARINE RISKS payable in New York, or New York.

BULL, NYE & Co.
Shanghai, September 15th, 1853.

GLOBE INSURANCE.

CORNHILL and PAUL-MALL, LONDON. ESTABLISHED 1803.

EMPLOYED BY SPECIAL ACTS OF PARLIAMENT.

Directors.

JAMES W. FRESHFIELD, Esq., M.P., F.R.S., Chairman.

POWELL NEWSAM, Esq., Deputy-Chairman.

GEORGE CARH GYNN, Esq., M.P., Treasurer.

JENNY ALEXANDER, Esq.

JOHN S. BROWN, Esq.

JOYCE COMBE, Esq.

THOMAS M. COOMBS, Esq.

WILLIAM DENT, Esq.

EDWARD GOLDSMID, Esq.

Sir L. L. GOLDSMID, Bart. F.R.S.

ROBERT HAWTHORN, Esq.

JOHN HODGSON, Esq.

RICHARD LAMBERT JONES, Esq.

ROBERT LOCKE, Esq.

ROYD MILLER, Esq.

WILLIAM DENT, Esq.

WILLIAM PHILLIMORE, Esq.

W. H. C. PLOWDEN, Esq., M.P.

SIR WALTER STIRLING, Bart.

WILLIAM THOMPSON, Esq., Ald., M.P.

WILLIAM TITE, Esq., F.R.S.

HENRY J. WHEELER, Esq.

JOSIAH WILSON, Esq.

BENJAMIN G. WINDUS, Esq.

WILLIAM NEWMARSH, Secretary.

FOR

FIRE AND LIFE INSURANCE,

AND FOR THE PURCHASE OF REVERSIONS

CAPITAL—ONE MILLION Sterling.

The Whole Paid-Up and Invested: and entirely Independent of the amount of Premiums received.

CHINA AGENCY FOR FIRE

INSURANCE.

THE undersigned having been appointed Agents in China for FIRE INSURANCE, are prepared to accept RISKS at Shanghai.

Particulars of Rates &c., will be given on application to

DIROM, GRAY & Co.
Agents at Shanghai.

ASIATIC MARINE INSURANCE OFFICE.

THE undersigned are prepared to grant Policies on behalf of the above Office, payable in London, Bombay, Calcutta, Singapore, and Hongkong.

SMITH, KENNEDY & Co.,
Agents for Shanghai.

Shanghai, 12th June, 1851.

THE ROYAL INSURANCE COMPANY.

CAPITAL £2,000,000.

JOHN SHAW LEIGH, Esq.

R. B. B. BLUNDELL, Esq.

THE undersigned having been appointed Agents for the above Company, are prepared to grant Policies against Fire on the usual terms to the extent of £10,000 on any one Building or Merchandise Stored in any one Warehouse.

G. C. SCHWABE & Co.
Shanghai, 9th June, 1850.

MARINE ASSURANCE.

THE undersigned are prepared to accept risks on behalf of the following Offices to the amounts indicated opposite each and payable in HONGKONG, CANTON, CALCUTTA, BOMBAY, and LONDON.

See Risk, Harbour Risk.

Canton Insurance Office, 100,000 100,000

Triton Insurance Office, 70,000 100,000

Bombay Insurance Office, 40,000 50,000

Bengal Insurance Office, 40,000 12,000

Reliance Marine Insurance Office, 25,000 ..

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
Agents in Shanghai.

Shanghai, 1st July, 1851.

ALLIANCE FIRE ASSURANCE COMPANY OF LONDON.

THE undersigned having been appointed AGENTS in China for the above COMPANY, are prepared to accept ASSURANCE at SHANGHAI, as under:

1st. On Buildings of Brick or Stone, covered with Tiles, Slates, Metal, or other Incombustible Material, when such Buildings are isolated from all others.—Rate of Premium, 1 per cent per Annum.

And on their Contents, at the Rate of 1 per cent per Annum.

ASSURANCES for 6 Months & 1, and for 3 Months & 1, of the Annual Rate will be charged.

ASSURANCES, for the present, will be accepted to the extent of £7,000 only on one Risk.

A Building and its Contents taken together form one Risk.

Thus the above Sum may be underwritten either on the Building alone, or the Contents alone; or, part on the Building, and part on the Contents.

NO ASSURANCE is to be considered in force until the Premium be paid.

Amongst other advantages of the COMPANY, the ASSURED will be entitled to participate in the Profits after Five successive payments.

Parties applying for ASSURANCES will please send in full particulars of the Risk to be taken; any Deviation from which without the Consent of the COMPANY, will vitiate the POLICY.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co.,
Agents in Shanghai.

Shanghai, 1st August, 1850.

INSURANCES.

SUN MUTUAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF NEW YORK.

CASH CAPITAL \$1,000,000.

THE undersigned have been appointed AGENTS for the above Office, and are prepared to take MARINE RISKS to the extent of \$50,000 in each Ship, made payable in China, Hongkong, Calcutta, London, and New York.

Risks are taken in this office under the mutual principle whereby the insured becomes a shareholder to the amount of his premium, without incurring responsibility, and at the close of the financial year he will only receive his share of the dividend of the Company's profits in scrip bearing interest at 6 1/2 per cent per annum until redeemed in cash after a certain period, if not meantime absorbed in losses.

RUSSELL & Co.
Shanghai, August 24th, 1853.

THE LONDON & ORIENTAL STEAM TRANSPORT OFFICE.

(Established 1843.)

THE undersigned are prepared to accept RISKS, (covered by protecting Policies at LLOYD'S and the various LONDON INSURANCE COMPANIES,) by the PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAMERS between Shanghai, Canton and Hongkong, Amoy, the Straits, Ceylon, the Presidencies of India, Java, and the East Indies.

The interest in the protecting Policies is assigned to the PENINSULAR & ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, for the purpose of their becoming the Medium of Payment in the event of loss.

For RATES OF PREMIUM and other Information, apply to

R. S. WALKER, Hongkong.

E. WARDEN, Hongkong.

T. MARSHALL, Singapore.

A. EMBERTON, Calcutta.

ROBERT FRANK, Madras, or

JOHN RITCHIE, Bombay.

JAMES HARTLEY & Co.
London, 24th December, 1851.

FOR SALE.

EX-LOCKETT.

JUST RECEIVED AND ON SALE

BY THE UNDERSIGNED.

THE following PRESERVED PROVISIONS from the well known House of Messrs. GILLOTT, Leith—

In Tins—Pinnin Haddock, Mock Turtle Soup, Mulligatawny do, Soup and Bouilli, Kidney Soup, Brown do, Roast Beef, Boiled do, Roast Veal, Fresh Salmon, Cold Fish, Mince and Collops, Carrots Plain, Beef a la mode, Scotch Haggis, Grouse Soup, Vegetable do, Harle do, Hotch Potch, Ragout of Tongue, Ling Fish, Essence of Beef, Oysters in own Juice, Beef Tea, Cold Roast Lobsters, Stewed Rabbit, Tarragon Plain, Roast Mutton, Boiled do, Stewed Veal, Parsnips Plain, Kippers Salmon, Cold Fish Plain, Turbot, and Cold Seafoods.

Also,

Green Gage Jam, Yellow Gooseberry do, Red do do, Marmalade, Black Currant Jam, Strawberry do, Raspberry do, Plum do, Damson do, Brambleberry do, and Apple do.

P. F. RICHARDS & Co.
Shanghai, February 2d, 1854.

JUST LANDED.

A SMALL (and useful) KEATING'S

COUGH LOZENGES—A Certain Remedy

for Disorders of the Pulmonary Organs. Being

free from every deleterious ingredient, they may

be taken at all times, by the most delicate female

and by the youngest child.

P. F. RICHARDS & Co.

FOR SALE.

EDINBURGH and BERTON Strong ALE;

ALLSOP'S and BAKER'S INDIA PALE ALE;

and BARCLAY & PERKINS'S STOUT, (bottled by

W. & J. Lockett). Apply to

C. M. DONALDSON.
Shanghai, 27th January, 1854.

FOR SALE.

DR. MORRISON'S DICTIONARY complete

in good preservation.

N.-C. Herald Office,
Shanghai, 23rd January, 1854.

FUNERAL CYPRESS SEEDS.

Five Packets of the SEED of this Ornamental Tree, have arrived from the

Tea Country, and are for Sale.

Apply to

II. FOGG & Co.
Shanghai, January 5th, 1854.

FOR SALE.

AT THE GODDONS OF THE UNDERSIGNED.

A GLASS of very Superior WINDOW

GLASS, of about 24 inches square 24 inches

by 24 inches to 46 inches by 32.

Apply to

SMITH, KING & Co.
Shanghai, January 4th, 1854.

FOR SALE.

SUPERIOR PALE SHERRY, PORT,

CLARET, SAUTERNE and MADEIRA,

from HENRY TATHAM & Co., London. Also,

from WHITBREAD & Co., London.

SMITH, KING & Co.
Shanghai, January 4th, 1854.

FOR SALE.

A QUANTITY of best English Sheet LEAD.

Apply to

SMITH, KING & Co.
Shanghai, January 4th, 1854.

ON SALE.

SUPERIOR CLARET; & PALE SHERRY,

from the Stock of Messrs. J. & C. WHITE &

Co., of London. Apply to

G. C. SCHWABE & Co.

FOR SALE.

ANCHORS, and CHAIN CABLES.

Apply to

G. C. SCHWABE & Co.

FOR SALE.

FOR SALE.

PALE SHERRY from Messrs. YAHN & Co.,

London. Apply to

MONCREIFF, GROVE & Co.

HOUSES.

FOR LEASE OR SALE.

THE HOUSE and GROUNDS, about Ten

mow, lately occupied by WILLIAM HAR-

GRAVES, Esq. Apply to

WM. THORBURN.
Shanghai, 27th January, 1854.

MISCELLANEOUS.

P. F. RICHARDS & Co.,

SHIP CHANDLERS, STORE-KEEPERS &

GENERAL COMMISSION AGENTS,

SHANGHAI.

ESTABLISHED IN 1844,

SHIPPING SUPPLIES, FRESH

PROVISIONS.

EDWARD HALL,

BREAD AND BISCUIT BAKER;

AND GENERAL STORE-KEEPER

SHANGHAI.

ALL KINDS OF FANCY BISCUITS MADE

TO ORDER, SHIPPING SUPPLIED

ON REASONABLE TERMS,

BISCUITS REFINED,

&c., &c., &c.

H. FOGG & Co.,

SHIP CHANDLERS, STORE-KEEPERS,

GENERAL AGENTS, AND

AUCTIONEERS.

N. B.—For Goods Sold by Auction, account

Sales and proceeds rendered 3 days

from date of Sale.

SHOULD sufficient inducement offer they will

hold an Auction monthly, or as often as oc-

casional demands.

PURIFY THE BLOOD.

MOFFAT'S LIFE PILLS

AND

PHOENIX BITTERS.

FOR the cure of Scrofula and Mercurial Dis-

eases, Fever and Ague, Bilious Fever,

Liver

THE North-China Herald.

SHANGHAI, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1854.

NOTICE.—In consequence of the departure of H. M. Steamer *Colbert*, at daylight on Saturday morning, we are obliged to go to press before our usual time; and, as this is the only opportunity for the Mail, we do so to the convenience of the public. Our usual heading we retain, but our latest dates will be those of Thursday.

(No. 27.)

BRITISH CONSULATE,
Shanghai, 31st January, 1854.
GENTLEMEN,—I have been directed by H. M.'s Plenipotentiary to communicate to you the accompanying Extract from a Despatch of H. M.'s Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs with reference to the correspondence which took place between His Excellency and yourselves in July, August and September last, respecting a suspension of the payment of Import Duties at this Port in consequence of the unsettled state of affairs.—I am, Gentlemen, your most obedient servant,
RUTHERFORD ALCOCK.

Messrs. SMITH, KENNEDY & Co.,
HARVEY & Co.,
WATSON & Co., and others.

EXTRACT FROM DESPATCH No. 84 dated 12th November, 1853, of H. M.'s Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to H. M.'s Plenipotentiary in China.

"I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the course taken by you, as reported in your Despatch No. 100, of the 4th of September, with respect to the desire of a portion of the Mercantile Community at Shanghai for a suspension of the payment of Import Duties at that Port, during the present unsettled state of affairs."

A true Extract,
W. H. FITZGER.

NOTIFICATION.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
Shanghai, 2nd February, 1854.
H. M.'s Consul makes known for the information of all whom it may concern, the annexed letter addressed to H. E. Woo, Taoutae, respecting the payment of duties under the Provisional System, and the steps to be taken for the future collection of Custom-house dues.

As soon as the Chinese Superintendent of Customs shall have taken the necessary measures for the re-establishment of the Customs, and an efficient footing due notice will be given.

RUTHERFORD ALCOCK,
Consul.
To THE BRITISH MERCANTILE
COMMUNITY at Shanghai.

BRITISH CONSULATE,
Shanghai, 30th January, 1854.

Sir,—Upon Your Excellency's return to Shanghai with the Imperial troops early in October, you acquainted me that you were authorized by His Excellencies, the High Provisional Authorities, to collect duties under the seal of the District-general of Grain in the districts of the Customs.

On the 12th you applied to me in arrears due on certain British ships which had nearly landed on the 7th September when the City was taken, and I pointed out that the duties were not collected on those arriving since that date on your behalf.

I informed you that on the dispersion of the Customs' Establishment, I had drawn up Provisional Rules by which British Merchants were required to assure me of the amount of their import and export duties, and to guarantee payment of the same, and that I had been referred through H. E. the Superintendent of Trade to H. M.'s Government, and until its sanction should be received no arrears of duties could be paid. I signified at the same time that I would be glad to have correspondence on the Duty Question as soon as the City should be retaken and Custom-house establishment fully re-instated.

Your Excellency's returning your application for the arrears, I particularly explained to you in my letter of the 18th that it had become a question the British Government could alone decide, whether British Subjects were, or were not, obliged to make payment, under circumstances that had prevented you from affording their lives and property protection, and their trade security against unequal competition, which being amongst the more important conditions on which the Emperor's right to levy duties had by Treaty been made contingent.

I may remark that your Excellency's re-occupation of the Custom-house heretofore in use, situated as it is in the heart of our Settlement, would have been impossible for two reasons. The submission of your authority would have utterly negated those measures of self-defence which we had been most unwillingly compelled to adopt, while the support of your Excellency with an armed force of our own in the heart of the foreign settlement, would have been no less inconsistent with the spirit of neutrality we have been strictly enjoined to observe in the present struggle.

A Notification to the effect that the Provisional Rules heretofore in force would cease from the morning of the 28th October having been issued by the U. S. Consul, I directed on the 11th November your Excellency's letter, dated the 20th October, proposing to collect duties on board two boats in the river, but on referring this to the Government, which although it was doubtless becoming to refrain from even the semblance of taking advantage of the distress of a Foreign Power with whom Great Britain has a treaty of amity, still sanctioned the view which I took of the principle in view, I have been taking to protect in some sort the Imperial Revenue, can be accorded only on the conditions, first, that the abeyance of the Custom-house Establishment be no more than a temporary evil; and secondly, that the vicarious

reservation made by me of the duties upon British Trade, shall have been equally secured upon all those accruing from the commerce of other nations.

In other words, I am not, as British Consul, to continue collecting the duties for the Chinese Customs-house for an indefinite period, no such responsibility being imposed at all by Treaty, and the attempt having been found to be attended with serious difficulties. Nor are British Merchants to be required, unless the trade of other nations since the capture of Shanghai be shown to have been equally taxed, to make payment of the duties ordinarily leviable.

As regards the past therefore, I must request you to ascertain and inform me, whether the Representatives of other Foreign Powers under whose auspices have traded since the 7th September, are willing and able, to call on ships to make payment in fitting time for the accruing duties under their respective flags; that I may make my report to H. E. the Superintendent of Trade.

With respect to the future, you will perceive that I am not authorized to continue the Provisional Rules for a period of indefinite length. They have now been in operation for nearly 5 months, and it is therefore my duty to request you to state how soon you will be enabled to re-establish the Custom-house in a fitting locality and on the footing provided by Treaty; that business may be resumed and duties paid as heretofore without further question.

Accept, &c.,
Signed, **RUTHERFORD ALCOCK,**
Consul.
To His Excellency WOO, Taoutae, &c., &c.
A true copy,
W. H. FITZGER.

It had become highly necessary, in consequence of the Notification recently issued by the U. S. Consul, that steps should be speedily taken for the security of equal rights and privileges accruing to British Subjects in regard to the payment of Duties to the Imperial Government of China.

H. B. M.'s Consul no doubt was anxious to do so, but very consistently, we think, awaited a reply to the communication made to the Home Government by H. E. the Superintendent of Trade on the subject in question. The last Mail has very opportunely brought a reply to Sir George Bonham. Our issue of today contains a letter from H. B. M.'s Consul Alcock, to those Merchants who had been in correspondence with His Excellency about the Duty-question, together with an 'Extract from a despatch of H. B. M.'s Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs,' approving of the course adopted by Sir George Bonham in the present difficult crisis of foreign trade in China.

The letter H. B. M.'s Consul has, since receiving the despatch, addressed to the Ex-Taoutae, is calculated to bring matters to a point. Circumstances as foreign merchants are in this port between two fires, and much puzzled as to shape their course within a strict neutrality so as, at the same time, they do not neglect necessary measures for self-defence—it is obvious to common sense that, other merchants of all nations should be called on to pay Duties, or the Duty-question must be put in abeyance until the Imperial Government is again enabled to re-establish matters on such a footing as to entitle it to levy Customs. This is only agreeable to Article VIII. of the British and Chinese Supplementary Treaty, which provides that H. of the American and Chinese Treaty, as brought forward by the U. S. A. Vice-Consul in his Notification to American Merchants of 20th ultimo, and published in our last issue.

It will be a difficult matter for H. E. Woo-keen-chang to answer the requisitions now placed before him so as reasonably to satisfy the British Authorities, that merchants of all nations, are placed on a basis of equality in regard to the payment of the Imperial Customs. The U. S. Commissioner has already decided in this question, in consequence of the above-stated Notification to be issued to American Merchants, and he is justified in the course he has pursued by the negligence of the Chinese authorities in regard to the Austrian bark *Robert*, being allowed to enter, load and depart without claiming any payment of Customs from her in October last. It may be said, indeed, that such an incident would be a hard case against the Imperial Government;—nevertheless it is just what has led to the small end of the wedge being inserted, and the acknowledgment, and refusal of liability, to the detriment of foreigners to pay Customs to the present Government—whose authorities have in the instance referred to, exhibited either gross negligence or an utter inability to exert proper influence at the Port to secure the imperial revenue.

SINCE our last issue for the Mail of the 27th which we despatched on the 20th per *Lady Mary Wood*, no intelligence has reached us of any advance of the Insurgents' army towards Peking. The batch of *Gazettes* received since then up to the 22nd December, still speak of the Insurgents being at Tuh-lu,—where probably they consider it most prudent to pause, and to wait for reinforcements or not particularly rebelling the severity of a Northern winter. The opening of Spring will be the time to test the bravery and resources of the contending parties—and although we should have considered it preferable for the prestige

of their arms that they had pressed onward without delay to Peking—it seems Chinese tacticians think differently, and we must, therefore, await the more active resumption of hostilities before we are enabled fully to judge of the probable success of the Insurgent, patriot or popular cause, against the present Government.

Shanghai remains still in the hands of the Rebels and the Imperialists' only chance of success seems in being able to starve them out. Various opinions are held on this head, at present they seem to have ample supplies within the City.

DURING the week an ineffectual attempt to negotiate with the rebels in Shanghai on the part of the French, is reported to have been made. The rebel chief Lew, is firm in his resolve to maintain his ground. It is supposed that re-inforcements have been sent for to Canton in order to strengthen the present chief in his command. The greatest danger seems at present to be likely to arise from a division of parties within the city, rather than from anything the Imperialists can effect either by force, bribery, or treachery.

PEKING GAZETTES.—Our contribution of the present week is one of a former batch, detailing Ke-shen's report of skirmishes near Yang-chow and Kwa-chow, on the 4th and 5th December last, wherein the Imperialists claim to have killed above 3,000 men and to have destroyed upwards of 20 junks of the insurgents. It will be remembered, that a few days after the said skirmishes are said to have taken place, the *Cassini* discerned a large re-inforcement proceeding up the grand canal in the direction of Kwa-chow and Yang-chow. This would in all probability have turned the tide in favour of the insurgents. Shing-pou also states that, on the 27th November, above 80 of the Imperialists were drowned by venturing too far on sea-ice near Tuh-lu.—They were chiefly Tartar troops. He reports several advantages gained over the Rebels near Tuh-lu on the 12th December, in conjunction with Tah-lung-a and Tung-chie; he also claims to have routed the rebels and to have destroyed a thousand men.

For the veracity of such statements it is only necessary to refer to the reports sent up to Peking of the doings about Shanghai, in order to form a proper estimate of the above so-called victories of the Imperialists over the Insurgents.

In publishing "*Orthodox*" we cannot agree with him that Ladies joining in the musical portion of the Church Service must necessarily "make a display of their vocal powers." The quiet, solemn style of singing adapted to Church music, is fully as suitable to religious as male voices, and to a grave and solemn tone should prevail throughout. We believe that Music in Churches, if properly conducted, is extremely conducive to true devotion, and we should, therefore, be glad to see it more cultivated. The theatrical displays that are made in some religious assemblies, however, have fully as much our reprobation, as the simple style we have witnessed in the Scotch and other Churches, has our full approval.

To the Editor of
"THE NORTH-CHINA HERALD."

DEAR SIR,—The letter in your last number signed *A. Churchman*, has been read with the utmost disgust by a large portion of the Community. Such an unbecoming allusion to the Ladies of Shanghai, could scarcely have been written by a gentleman, nor could any true Churchman have cast such a slur upon the protestant religion.

I imagine most of the Ladies of Shanghai attend Church, that they may hear our beautiful Liturgy properly read, and to profess the well-ordered and wholesome moral derived from the Pulpit; not to make a display of their vocal powers. And I appeal to your better judgment Editor, whether the Church of England Service, is likely to be rendered more solemn and attractive, by any futile attempts of Amateur Musicians and Singers.

Now that I am upon the subject, I will venture to suggest the propriety of confining the "Musical portion" of Divine Service at our Church, to two Hymns or Psalms, and that those old and venerable hymns be played, which most of us remember from childhood.—Your obedient servant,

ORTHODOX.

Shanghai, 20th January, 1854.

P.S.—If *A. Churchman* is really curious to know, how the Roman Catholics in this part of China, succeed so well with their music, let him enquire of those poorly paid but hardworking Priests; certainly they get very little "musical" assistance from the congregation.

THE INSURRECTION IN CHINA.

—GALLERY AND YUAN—

(Continued from No. 183.)

On the capture of Yung-an-chow, on the 29th September, 1851, a proclamation was issued by the insurgents, which threw some new light on the history and principles of the second year of Tien-ting, and from the first year of Tai-ping Tien-kuoh, the great peaceful heaven kingdom. It distinctly asserted that the worship of God was a primary characteristic of the insurgent leaders, and that

the federal division of the Empire under one head—the nominal descendant of the Ming dynasty—was the form of government to be finally adopted. These several points imply that a new era had commenced in the history of the movement, and that either a change had taken place in the political constitution, or that more definite and determinate expression was then given of its original principles and design. This their late success reasonably encouraged them to make, while it was further rendered necessary by the increasing number of adherents, and the growing importance of the affair throughout the country. On the religious question we have, since the date of the manifesto, been fully informed, and with regard to the partitioning of the empire,—which is highly probable from the terms of the proclamation, and the actual announcement of the partition of kingdoms—the authors before us profess to look upon it, in consideration of the extent of Chinese territory and the vast multitude and heterogeneous character of the inhabitants, as a wise and politic step.

The seizure of Yung-an greatly incensed the emperor, who threatened the generals-in-command with the loss of their heads, if they did not retake the place. On this we have accounts of various battles between the insurgents and imperialists, in which some capital successes on the part of the former were brought out, while the latter, notwithstanding some curious stratagems that they devised, were completely foiled, and the consequence was only defeat and desertion on their side.

Flushed with their recent victories over Tartar and Chinese generals, the insurgents proceeded Northwards into the Hu-nan province. This as usual excited the terror and apprehension of the Imperial government, and all the disposable forces were sent against them. Many of these, however, from being ill-provided for, and finding themselves unable to cope with the rebels, were ready at the first opportunity to make common cause with them, and in this way the ranks of the latter frequently received large reinforcements. Besides, the further the insurgents advanced, they were joined by numbers, who for various reasons were disposed to cast in their fortunes with the rising cause. The original Kwang-si insurgents appear in reality to have been very few, but their character, influence and authority must have been remarkable when they were able to modify and mould the more numerous elements, that, from time to time, became incorporated with them.

A minute account is given of an embassy from the Governor of Kwang-si to the so-called Tien-ting, who is said to have been residing in the mountain of Tach-hing, not far from Kwei-lin, surrounded by his household, soldiers and guard. The purport of this mission was, of course, to secure the obedience of the Pretender, who, in his turn, asserted his claims to the empire, and his resolution to act accordingly. After feasting the messengers sumptuously for five days, he took leave of them in a friendly manner. We have no means of verifying this interview, which is of no importance, except as confirming M. M. Callery and Yuan's uniform description of Tien-ting, with whose character and whereabouts, they seem to have been all along wonderfully well acquainted!

Shortly after this, a report was circulated that Tien-ting had been made a prisoner by the Imperialists, and had been sent to Peking, where, after making a full confession of all he knew about the insurrection, he was put to death. The whole affair, however, our authors declare to be a hoax, got up to serve a purpose by Siu, who had caught an insignificant chief, and forwarded him to the capital, from whom the particulars were elicited, and put in order by some men of letters. Meanwhile the real Tien-ting is said to have been safe and sound in the mountains of Kwang-si. What authority there is for this version of the story, or if indeed there be any, we are at a loss to divine. We know that the mandarins are quite capable of such a transaction, but, whether or not, it did not at all affect the progress of the rebellion.

Marvellous and rapid as were the successes of the insurgents in Hu-nan and Hu-peh, they were not uninterrupted. On several occasions they met with serious reverses. This was only to be expected, yet it does not appear to have dampened their ardour in the cause in which they had embarked their all.

The rebels, attacked at Chao-chow-Fu, by the Imperialists, were not more than 200 men in the neighbourhood, while the number of regular prisoners in the hands of the enemy. Some days afterward they were again defeated at Yung-chow-Fu, and about the same time they received a check still more terrible. Their fleet chased the enemy's fleet, directing fire-boats against the Imperial junks. During this manoeuvre the wind changed suddenly, and the Imperial vessels were consumed by the flames. Soon, however, the insurgents were amply revenged. They took Kwei-jang, in the Hu-nan, by storm, and acted as if they were the enemy's country.

A review of the year 1852, shows that the insurgents had, on the whole, made rapid progress, though not as compared with their subsequent career. They were

far from precipitate in their movements, and seem rather to have been desirous of concentrating and augmenting their forces, than rashly venturing on any new enterprise. All things considered, their plans and operations were well conducted, and when then fully developed, struck even foreigners with surprise, while they threw confusion and discomfiture into the ranks of their assailants.

From the prolonged period of the war, and the heavy drain it had caused on the Imperial treasury, the authorities were reduced to every possible means in order to raise money. These ever-pressing necessities of government are not owing to any inherent deficiency in the resources of the empire, which, honestly and wisely administered, would prove equal to far greater emergencies, but to the enormous peculation of the officials, which has more than cripple the energies of the wealthiest nation on the face of the globe.

"The symptoms of rebellion were now strongly strong in all directions. In the midst of the general embarrassment, the Imperial treasury became exhausted, and the minister who superintended the outlet of public funds, and who, in a fit of distress, and denounced this scandalous fact to the emperor. It was impossible to make the mandarins, who commanded the insurgent provinces, render an account of the money expended in their charge. They merely replied that they required 700,000 taels to support the costs of the war. The number of soldiers on the list concocted by the mandarins, amounted to 40,000, sometimes to 100,000 men; that is to say, a number that always varied according to circumstances, but which in every case was three times larger than the effective force assembled under the Imperial flag."

"However, it is the fate of the Chinese Government to be always cheated. The 'Son of Heaven' has been deceived by his mandarins, the ministers rob him, the military officers rob him, the inspecting mandarins rob him, in fact, there is an organized system of pillage, in which every one seeks to enrich himself at the expense of the State."

To meet the exigencies occasioned by the war, the emperor had frequently sent an example of liberal contribution, but few were induced to imitate it. Accordingly for that object a system was devised of selling various offices of rank and emolument to the highest bidder,—a principle fraught only with the greatest mischief, and well calculated to foment the rebellion, by exciting the disgust, discontent and opposition of all thinking men throughout the empire.

The insurgents having tried in vain to take Chong-ching, the Capital of Hu-nan, they pushed their way Northwards, and on the 12th January, 1853, captured Wu-chang, the provincial city of Hu-peh. The intelligence was at first disbelieved, but in due time it was confirmed by the proclamation of the emperor. It is a characteristic of Chinese politics, that his Imperial Majesty should be kept as ignorant of the truth as possible, and that for this end falsehood and deception to any extent may be freely practised upon him. This had frequently been the case in the course of the war, and it was only when absolutely unavoidable, that it became requisite to tell him how matters stood. The position of Wu-chang, in a mercantile and political point of view, is of great importance; its capture, therefore, by the insurgents, despite the declared impossibility of it on Siu's part shortly before, enraged the emperor beyond measure, who, on degrading the Commissioner and General Hing-yung, summoned the forces of various provinces, with fresh Tartar troops to exterminate the rebels.

It was about this time that direct information of the war began to reach Shanghai. The different directions, and the many partly account for our entire ignorance of many things that were currently reported in the South, and which have found their way into the book before us. The chief magistrate of this district began to make earnest appeals to the various foreign Consuls for assistance, to be amply remunerated on the conclusion of the war. These documents have already appeared in our Journal and need not now be repeated.

In one chapter the organization of the insurgent army is described to some extent. The appearance and characteristics of the five kings, as they are called, are given, entirely in accordance with an Imperial narrative, which was translated for the *Herald* by Dr. Medhurst. Above these kings, of whom Tai-ping is said to be the acting chief, our authors still place Tien-ting, the nominal descendant of the Ming dynasty; and he is presumed to be the person, who, on coming to Kow-tow-shan in Hu-nan, (as the native tea merchants here gave it at the time) received the homage of all the high officials among the rebels, and in company with them spent three days in undisturbed festivity. The actual existence of this personage is a point very much doubted, and the confidence with which Callery and Yuan have invariably spoken of him has tended, in some measure, to throw discredit on their whole book. It is certainly strange that subsequent interviews with the insurgents have not served to clear up the mystery, but rather, indeed, to induce the belief that there is no such individual. However, we are not in circumstances to give a decided opinion on the subject. In composing the present work, the authors have made a good use

